(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government is also aware that the State has taken a big initiative in the matter and is committed to the development of child and women; and

(d)if so, the status of the above proposal to include the State in the above World Bank Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Eight States *viz,* Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have been selected for implementation of the proposed World Bank assisted ICDS-IV Project on the basis of a study ***viz.*** 'Mapping and Profile' of "Target" Districts-India ICDS Programme' and best practices experience of the State. The request received from the Government of Orissa for inclusion in the proposed Project was considered in the Ministry. However, it was not found possible to accede to the same. A suitable reply was accordingly sent to the State Government on 1st February, 2008.

Amendment of Anti-Dowry Act

1073. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government proposes to amend the Anti-dowry Act, so as to make it harsher;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether Government is aware that the provision of this Act are being blatantly abused, as per several judgement of the various courts in this regard; and

(d)if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Commission for Women (NCW) which is mandated by lawamong other things, to review Constitutional and other legal provisions affecting women and to suggest amendment thereof, has recommended some amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and section 304B IPC (Dowry death). The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b)The main points of the recommendation made by NCW are shown in the enclosed statement. *(See* below).

(c)Government has no information that there is any large-scale misuse of the concerned laws. As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs for the years 2004 to 2006, the number of cases registered and the number of cases declared false on account of mistake of fact or law was 21431 &974,179568& 19013and 11300 & 615 under section 304B IPC (dowry death), section 498 A IPC (cruelty by husband or relative of husband) and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, respectively.

(d)It is for the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the States to deal with any false complaint relating to dowry.